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FROM : ROCCA, RAYMOND G.
TO : DEPUTY CHIEF, OPERATIONS STAFF
TITLE : MEMORANDUM: REVIEW OF AGENCY HOLDINGS REGARDING
PHOTOGRAPH OF UNIDENTIFIED INDIVIDUAL IN MEXICO CITY
PUBLISHED BY THE WARREN COMMISSION.
DATE : 05/02/75
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SUBJECTS : WC PHOTO

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ATTACHMENT**

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2 May 1975

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MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Chief, Operations Staff

SUBJECT : Review of Agency Holdings regarding
Photograph of Unidentified Individual
in Mexico City published by the
Warren Commission

REFERENCE : Letter dated 15 April 1975 by
Mr. David W. Belin, Executive Director
of the Commission on CIA Activities
within the United States, to
Mr. E. Henry Knoche (copy attached to
accompanying report)

1. This is further to, and in completion of, my
interim memorandum of a few weeks ago.

2. The attachment is a detailed review in narrative,
chronological order - together with appropriate comment-
ary - of our extensive holdings on the OSWALD case that
have a bearing on the matter of photographs taken by
Mexico City Station on 1, 4 and 15 October 1963 of an
Unidentified Individual. As a consequence of a combina-
tion of analytical error, misjudgment and under the
stress of an urgent desire to contribute to the develop-
ment of the investigation of the assassination, a
cropped version of one of the photographs of the
Unidentified Individual was introduced into the chain of
evidence in the OSWALD case on 23 November 1963 by an
FBI representative in Dallas. The successive vicissi-
tudes which have now made this event a cause celebre
right down to the present moment are detailed in the
narrative.

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6. In fact, we actually hold twelve different photo-graphs of the unidentified individual. Each of these are reproduced in the collected documentation backing up the narrative report (see Items 25 - 27). Chief, TA Division,

5. As noted above, one of the photographs taken in Mexico City on 4 October 1963 was introduced into the Warren Commission public record. However, it was introduced into that record in two cropped versions. The Warren Commission and the staff were made fully aware in the course of their inquiry of the Headquarters and in Mexico City of the circumstances of the photograph, the fact that we had additional photographs of the same individual taken at different times in Mexico City and on the basis that full knowledge of these facts reached their own conclusions regarding the irrelevance of the photograph to Oswald and the assassination.

3. The attached report is to be an answer to the Fensterwald/O'Connor article which Mr. Belin attached to his memorandum. I have prepared a paragraph-by-paragraph refutation and comment on that article, which I believe is more appropriate than handle by a separate memorandum to Mr. Belin and I will prepare this as a memorandum if the desire exists.

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Attachments:

Raymond G. ROCCA

7. It seems to me that whatever makes a decision on whether the entire matter can be fully disclosed at this time should bear in mind that a subsidiary decision must also be made, i.e., whether to crop or otherwise fuzz up the background of the photographs or, alternatively, to publish the entire run of the photographs for the first time without taking out the background. Obviously, none of these questions apply to the passage of this material to Mr. Belin and the communication itself. I think they should see the Rockefeller Commission itself. I recommend and the question of "how?" and "how much?" be discussed after that, the question of what could stand. Perhaps after that, the question of what could be settled as an agency. But it is my understanding we will be as open and final manner, the better off that there are still sensitive aspects deriving from the fact that the operation which produced the photographs was jointly run with Mexican liaison and as a consequence of that publication at this time would create additional problems at that level in Mexico. Also, it should be noted that was jointly run with Mexican liaison and as a consequence of that publication at this time would create additional problems at that level in Mexico. Also, it should be noted that the Ambassador, according to his Secretary's memorandum to J.C. King on 22 November 1963 (see Item 8 in the backup documentation), allegedly played a direct role in the decision to put the photographs into the hands of the FBI in Dallas later on. As far as I know, there has not been any liaison established about this aspect at any time in the past twelve we had any discussions with the State Department about that aspect of the matter.

had indicated in writing to Chapter CTOPS, that he has no objection for Mr. Belin to do whatever is desired with these photographs at this time. It should be noted that Mr. Fensterwald in 1971 - 1972 was actually shown, by Mr. Houston during a visit to the agency, two of the twelve photographs, others than the one already published in the Warren Commission report (It is these two that he has published in the New York Review of Books article which Mr. Belin attaches to this memorandum).

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